

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 70

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAG: PFOR, EEC, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH REACTION TO TINDEMAN'S REPORT

REF: COPENHAGEN 71

1. BASED ON MY CONVERSATIONS YESTERDAY AND TODAY WITH
IVAR NORGAARD, DANISH MINISTER FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
AND WITH EIGIL JORGENSEN, PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY OF THE
MFA, I BELIEVE THAT THE INITIAL REACTION OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT
TO THE TINDEMAN'S REPORT CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. DANISH OFFICIAL REACTION TO BE ANNOUNCED JANUARY 13.

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MINISTER NORGAARD POINTED OUT THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

ARE HEADING A MINORITY GOVERNMENT AND, THEREFORE, MUST FIRST COORDINATE OFFICIAL DANISH POSITION WITH OTHER PARTIES BEFORE SPEAKING OUT PUBLICLY ON AS IMPORTANT AN ISSUE AS THE FUTURE OF THE EEC. DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS, THE DANISH GOVT WILL CONSULT WITH PARLIAMENT SO THAT THE OFFICIAL DANISH COMMENT WILL NOT BECOME A DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE.

B. CAUTIOUS FAVORABLE REACTION WITH THREE EXCEPTIONS. BOTH MY INTERLOCUTORS POINTED OUT THAT THEY FOUND TINDEMANS' REPORT ON THE WHOLE CAREFULLY DRAFTED BUT AT TIMES AMBIGUOUS, PERHAPS PURPOSELY SO IN ORDER TO GARNER MAXIMUM SUPPORT. THOSE ASPECTS OF THE REPORT DEALING WITH THE ROME TREATY ARE LARGELY UNOBJECTIONABLE TO THE DANES AND REFLECT VIEWS THEY EXPRESSED TO TINDEMANS WHEN HE VISITED COPENHAGEN LAST FALL. HOWEVER, THE DANES HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS DEALING WITH SUBJECTS OUTSIDE THE ROME TREATY. FOR EXAMPLE, TINDEMANS' APPARENT RECOMMENDATION THAT DEFENSE MATTERS BE DEALT WITH IN THE COMMON MARKET FRAMEWORK RAISES PROBLEMS FOR THE DANES. WHILE THE LANGUAGE OF THE REPORT IS NOT PRECISE ON THIS POINT, IF THIS IS WHAT IS MEANT, THEN THE DANES WOULD OBJECT. JORGENSEN STRESSED AGAIN WHAT WE HAVE REPORTED IN THE PAST; I.E., THE DANES STRONGLY FEEL THAT DEFENSE MATTERS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE NATO FORUM. WHILE SOME EXCEPTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, SUCH AS COOPERATION ON ARMS STANDARDIZATION WITHIN A EUROPEAN COMMITTEE, AND DANISH AGREEMENT TO DISCUSSING WITHIN THE EEC THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, THESE ITEMS REMAIN FOR DANES EXCEPTIONS AND NOT THE RULE.

2. IN THE CHAPTER DEALING WITH EEC RELATIONS AND THE US,

THE DANES ARE SUSPICIOUS OF THE RECOMMENDATION PROPOSING THAT AN EEC COUNTRY BE ASSIGNED THE TASK OF NEGOTIATING WITH THE USG IN ORDER TO AGREE ON THE SCOPE AND CHARACTER OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE USG AND THE COMMON MARKET. DANES BELIEVE THAT TINDEMANS HAS FRANCE IN MIND FOR THIS JOB. IF THIS WERE THE CASE, DANES SAY THEY WOULD HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS BECAUSE DANISH ATTITUDE ON E.G. DEFENSE MATTERS DIFFERS FROM FRENCH POSITION.

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3. FINALLY, THE TWO DANISH OFFICIALS THOUGHT THAT TINDEMANS' RECOMMENDATION THAT ISSUES OUTSIDE THE ROME TREATY BE HANDLED ON A MAJORITY BASIS WOULD CAUSE THE DANES SOME DIFFICULTIES. THEY FEEL THAT THE "LUXEMBOURG AGREEMENT" WAS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN GETTING DANISH AGREEMENT TO ENTERING THE EEC. THE DANES ALSO WANT TO MAINTAIN THE RIGHT TO DISAGREE ON MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES NOT RELATED TO THE EEC. ANY LANGUAGE WHICH WILL MAKE DECISIONS

BINDING ON ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE
ACCEPTABLE TO THE DANES.

4. MY OVERALL IMPRESSION FROM THESE TWO CONVERSATIONS
IS THAT THE AMBIGUITY OF THE LANGUAGE IN SOME KEY SECTIONS IN
THE TINDEMANS' REPORT WILL PERMIT THE DANES TO GIVE GENERAL
ENDORSEMENT TO THE REPORT. HOWEVER, THEY WILL EXPRESS THEIR
RESERVATIONS ON SOME OF THE POINTS SET FORTH ABOVE IN THE
EVENT THAT CERTAIN KEY PHRASES IN THE REPORT ARE INTERPRETED
ALONG LINES CONTRARY TO BASIC POSITION HELD BY THE DANES ON
THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN UNITY.
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